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Filed : August 15, 2003

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 32, 37, 44, 49, 60, 66, 67, and 68 as follows:

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A retainer configured for use with a medical article, the retainer comprising:

a body member comprising,

a channel formed through the body member, the channel being configured to retain at least a portion of the medical article and having a longitudinal access opening disposed on an underside of the body member to allow at least ingress of the medical article into the channel,

at least one abutment extending generally normal to an axis of the inverted channel and configured to inhibit longitudinal movement of the medical article, and

at least one support having a lower surface disposed on the underside of the retainer and to a side of the access opening opposite the channel axis and located so as to prevent contact between the medical article and a patient's skin when the retainer is placed upon the patient's skin.

33. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 32 wherein the at least one abutment is configured to abut against a contact surface on the medical article to arrest movement of the medical article in at least one direction.

34. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 33 wherein the contact surface comprises a surface of a radially extending member.

35. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 34, wherein the retainer comprises two abutments to form a slot therebetween, and wherein the slot is configured to receive the radially extending member when the medical article is inserted into the channel.

36. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the channel has a tapering shape.

37. (Currently Amended) A retainer as in Claim 36, wherein the tapering shape of the channel matches a tapering shape of the medical article ~~has a tapering shape~~.

38. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 37, wherein the tapering shape of the channel is selected to match the tapering shape of the medical article to limit longitudinal movement of the medical article in a first direction when the medical article is inserted into the channel.

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39. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 38, wherein the at least one abutment is configured to abut against a contact surface on the medical article to limit longitudinal movement of the medical article in a second direction.

40. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the retainer comprises a retention surface which is configured to inhibit transverse motion of the medical article.

41. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 40, wherein the retention surface is located in the channel.

42. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the at least one support is a first mounting wing coupled to the body member.

43. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 35, further comprising a stop member which extends into a portion of the slot such that when the medical article is inserted into the channel and rotated in a first direction around the axis of the channel, the radially extending member slides within the slot until the radially extending member contacts the stop member.

44. (Currently Amended) A retainer configured for use with a medical article, the retainer comprising:

a body member comprising,

a channel formed through the body member, the channel being configured to retain at least a portion of the medical article and having a longitudinal access opening disposed on an underside of the body member to allow ingress of the portion of the medical article into the channel,

at least one abutment extending generally normal to an axis of the channel and configured to inhibit longitudinal movement of the medical article, and

means for preventing contact between ~~holding~~ the medical article and ~~away from~~ a patient's skin.

45. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 44, wherein the means for holding is located in the channel.

46. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 44, wherein the means for holding is located to the underside of the retainer.

47. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 44, wherein the means for holding also inhibits motion of the medical article in a longitudinal direction.

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48. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 44, wherein the means for holding also inhibits motion of the medical article in a transverse direction.

49. (Currently Amended) A retainer configured for use with a medical article that comprises a radially extending member, the retainer comprising:

a body member having proximal and distal ends and further comprising,

a channel formed through the body member, the channel being configured to retain at least a portion of the medical article and having a longitudinal access opening disposed on an underside of the body member to allow at least ingress of the medical article into the channel, the channel being located so as to prevent contact between the medical article and a patient's skin when the retainer is placed upon the patient's skin.

at least one slot disposed between the proximal and distal ends of the body member and configured to receive the radially extending member, and

a stop member extending into a portion of the at least one slot such that when the medical article is inserted into the channel and rotated in a first direction around the axis of the channel, the radially extending member slides within the slot until the radially extending member contacts the stop member.

50. (Original) A retainer as in Claim 49, wherein the body member further comprises at least one support disposed on the underside of the retainer and to a side of the access opening opposite the channel axis.

51. (Original) A retainer in Claim 50, wherein the retainer comprises a retention surface which is configured to inhibit transverse motion of the medical article.

52. (Canceled).

53. (Canceled).

54. (Canceled).

55. (Canceled).

56. (Canceled).

57. (Canceled).

58. (Original) A retainer configured for use with a medical article, the retainer comprising:

a body member comprising,

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a channel formed therethrough, the channel being configured to retain a portion of the medical article and having a longitudinal access opening disposed on an underside of the body member to allow ingress of the medical article into the channel,

at least one abutment extending generally normal to an axis of the channel and configured to inhibit longitudinal movement of the medical article, and

at least one support disposed on the underside of the retainer and to a side of the access opening opposite the channel axis, wherein a distance between the at least one support and the axis of the channel prevents contact between the medical article and a patient's skin when the retainer is placed upon the patient's skin.

59. (Original) A retainer as Claim 58, wherein the channel comprises at least two portions that are spaced apart with the at least one abutment in between, each portion extending about the channel.

60. (Currently Amended) A retainer configured for use with a medical article, the retainer comprising:

a body member comprising,

a channel formed therethrough, the channel being configured to retain the medical article and having a longitudinal access opening disposed on an underside of the body member to allow ingress of the medical article,

at least one abutment extending generally normal to an axis of the channel and configured to inhibit longitudinal movement of the medical article,

at least one support surface disposed on the underside of the retainer and to one side of the access opening opposite the channel axis, wherein the support surface ~~provides a mounting surface for attachment of the retainer to a patient's skin~~ is disposed below the channel to prevent contact between the medical article and the patient's skin when the retainer is placed upon the patient's skin, and wherein the ~~mounting~~ support surface is angled relative to the ~~longitudinal access opening axis of the channel~~ to define an incident angle between the axis of the channel and the patient's skin.

61. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the at least one abutment is located between proximal and distal ends of the body member along the axis of the channel.

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62. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the at least one abutment is a surface on a proximal end of the body member along the axis of the channel.

63. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the at least one abutment is located on a distal end of the body member along the axis of the channel.

64. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 34, wherein the radially extending member extends about the circumference of the medical article.

65. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 34, wherein the radially extending member extends substantially parallel to the medical article.

66. (Currently Amended) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the body member is configured to retain a medical article in the shape of a catheter hub ~~medical article is a catheter hub~~.

67. (Currently Amended) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the body member is configured to retain a medical article having ~~comprises~~ two contact surfaces, and wherein the body member of the retainer is sized to fit between the two contact surfaces.

68. (Currently Amended) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the body member comprises two abutments and is configured to retain a medical article having ~~comprises~~ two contact surfaces ~~and the body member of the retainer comprises two abutments~~, and wherein the two contact surfaces abut against the two abutments.

69. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the channel has an arc length of greater than 180 degrees.

70. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 40, wherein the retention surface provides a snap-fit securement with the portion of the medical article.

71. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 40, wherein the retention surface flexes when the medical article is inserted into the channel.

72. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 71, wherein the retention surface is a movable wall.

73. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 40, wherein the channel has a radius of R and wherein the retention surface is located at a distance of greater than R from the axis of the channel.

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74. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the abutment comprises an adhesive, the adhesive adhering to the medical article when the medical article is inserted into the retainer.

75. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein a portion of the body member is transparent to facilitate alignment and ingress when inserting the medical article into the channel.

76. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the abutment comprises a wall of a slot.

77. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the abutment comprises a ridge.

78. (Previously Presented) A retainer as in Claim 32, wherein the abutment comprises a protuberance.